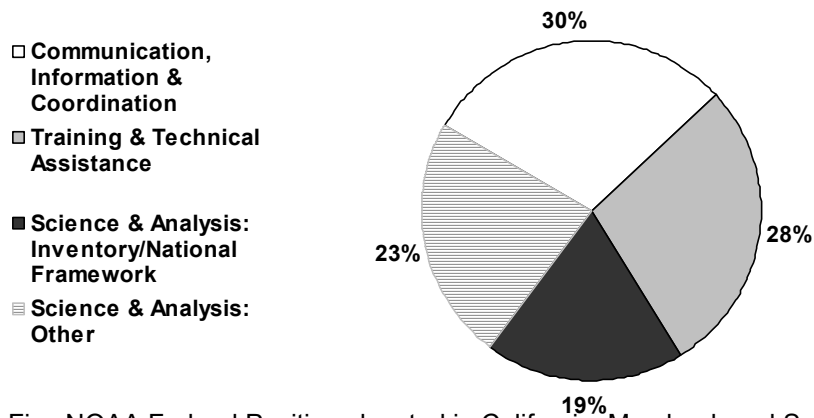


National Marine Protected Areas Center: *Science, tools, and training for the Nation's MPAs*
Budget and Activities for FY2003

NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center has an operating budget of \$4,000,000 for FY2003. These funds are being spent across three broad categories of activities: Communication, Education and Information, Science and Analysis, and Training and Technical Assistance

FY2003 Budget - \$4,000,000



Staff: Five NOAA Federal Positions located in California, Maryland, and South Carolina supported by contractors, interns, post docs, and others.

Communication, Education, Coordination and Information activities are designed to provide information to the public, resource users, resource use and conservation organizations, educators, state, territorial, commonwealth, Fishery Management Councils, and tribal interests about what MPAs are, how they can be used effectively in the overall marine management context in the United States, and what support the National MPA Center can provide. FY2003 activities include:

- Establish and support the MPA Federal Advisory Committee;
- Support outreach to stakeholders through sponsorship of and/or participation in meetings, symposia, and workshops (e.g., American Fisheries Society, Coastal Zone '03, California and the World Oceans, Fisherman's Forums, George Wright Society, Science and Management of Protected Areas Association, among others);
- Develop and field test a basic MPA information course for the public, *Understanding MPAs*;
- Provide access to information through vehicles such as *MPA News*, *MPA Center Connections*, the National Marine Educators Association's *Currents* magazine and *FirstGov.gov*;
- Initiate development of a network of virtual MPA regional information centers (e.g., *PacificMPA.org*) to provide stakeholders with basic information about important MPA activities in their region;
- Maintain and expand the content (e.g. education, state activities) of the MPA web site, www.mpa.gov - initiate redesign to improve public accessibility to information;
- Support regional MPA coordination activities on the west coast, the south Atlantic, and the Gulf of Maine (locate New England site liaison in Boston, MA);
- Initiate planning and outreach for tribal participation; and
- Support the conduct of an internal NOAA MPA review and lead efforts to design an MPA coordination structure for NOAA programs.

Science and Analysis activities are focused on supporting the effective design, management, and evaluation of the Nation's MPAs by developing partnerships to fulfill key scientific, technical, and policy assessment needs of the national MPA system. FY2003 activities include:

- Develop a users guide to MPA terms and definitions to bring some clarity and consistency to ongoing dialogue about MPAs;
- Publish MPA social science strategy and initiate regional workshop series;
- Research social science methods and MPA-related applications, make available via the web;
- Develop draft MPA natural science strategy and plan FY2004 regional workshop series;
- Initiate research partnerships to foster investigation of issues central to the design and management of effective MPAs, such as connectivity, habitat characterization, disturbance and recovery, and management effectiveness;
- Develop team to initiate conceptual planning for a national network of MPAs;
- Continue incorporation of state, territorial and commonwealth sites into the National Inventory of Marine Managed Areas and refine federal site information.
- Initiate a review of submerged cultural resources through co-sponsorship of the National Marine Sanctuary Program shipwrecks inventory project; and
- Conduct a national study of state, territorial and commonwealth MPA policies.

Training and Technical Assistance activities are dedicated to improving the skills and effectiveness of federal, state, local, tribal, and non-governmental coastal resource managers, strengthening their ability to protect and enhance the Nation's MPAs. FY2003 activities include:

- Compile and maintain a national list of potential federal, state, academic and private MPA training and service providers;
- Initiate the Phase II "technology needs assessment" to determine MPA products and services of priority importance to site staff and stakeholders;
- Conduct workshops for local MPA managers on visitor use impacts and management tactics hosted by Estuarine Reserves, Marine Sanctuaries, and other MPA sites around the nation;
- Research and document five MPA processes to transfer practical lessons learned to managers and stakeholders;
- Support the development of an *MPA Marine Boundary Best Practices Handbook* by the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Marine Boundary Working Group;
- Synthesize information about MPA enforcement issues, techniques, and technologies; and
- Provide MPA site managers and staff with training on needs assessment, evaluation, public issues and conflict management, and negotiating for coastal resources to strengthen stewardship capabilities.

For additional information about National MPA Center activities contact

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See www.mpa.gov for additional information about MPAs

